
Fort Churchill, Nev., *March 20, 1865.*

I have the honor to report that in accordance with the above order I took up the line of march at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 12th instant. I had along with my command twelve friendly Indians and a white man to act as guides. My whole force was thirty-seven infantry of my own company and fifty cavalry Company E, Nevada Volunteers, under Lieut. William H. Clark. I arrived the first day at Mason's ranch, on Walker River, distant from Fort Churchill eighteen miles. I was there joined by about twenty friendly Indians who wished to go along with the expedition. I informed them that I had no use for them and no supplies, and they then turned back. I started from Mason's ranch at 6 a. m. on the 13th, and traveled up the Walker River fourteen miles to the junction of the East and West Walker; thence up the West Fork four miles to the crossing; crossed the river and camped on the east side at Wilson's ranch, a distance of eighteen miles from Mason's ranch. Left Wilson's at 5 a. m. of the 14th; traveled fifteen miles and camped on Wheeler's ranch on the west side of the East Fork of Walker River. The settlers here said that the murderers of Stewart and Rabe and their friends, about 300 strong, were camped at the foot of Walker Lake, but knew nothing of my coming, having thus far misled them by saying that I was on my way to Aurora. To get to where the Indians were at the foot of the lake I had to cross a range of mountains where it was impossible to get teams over and the trail was very little traveled. The Indians' camp was distant from this point (Wheeler's ranch) thirty miles, twenty miles to the lake and ten miles down to the camp, and no food for our animals on the way. I had no packsaddles with me, and on the morning of the 15th I sent out men and borrowed five saddles of the settlers. I then ordered the men to provide themselves with two days' cooked rations, as I did not wish to build any fires after leaving camp until the Indians

could be surrounded. I was getting everything ready for an early start in the morning when about 11 o'clock an Indian courier arrived with the news that he was sent by Josephus (a friendly chief), who was watching out for the murderers at the head of the lake, to let me know that they had come up there the night before. Placing full reliance upon this information, I immediately acted upon it, and left Wheeler's ranch at 12 m. Went one mile down the East Fork of Walker River and crossed. From here I sent the infantry, under command of Lieut. G. J. Lansing, across by a trail with a guide, and I took the cavalry and went around by the road a distance of twenty-five miles. The infantry made it in fifteen miles to a tollhouse on the Wellington road, which had been uninhabited for some months. It was situated in a very deep cañon two miles from the mouth and eight from the head of the lake. I arrived at the tollhouse about 8 in the evening, and the infantry came in about fifteen minutes afterward. I halted here until 2 a. m. of the 16th. I had attained a correct idea of the location of the Indian camp and made my arrangements accordingly. I moved out the cavalry and infantry together to the mouth of the cañon. In coming out of the cañon one of my wagons upset. I left a guard with it with orders to right it up and follow on. I had ordered the cavalry, under the command of Lieut. William H. Clark, to go up the lake road three miles, then to take a trail to the left and cross the river about two miles and a half above the lake, and then as the land was level and sandy to go half a mile from the river, and then down close to the lake, so that when they had formed in line and deployed the right would rest on the river and the left on the lake or close to it. The country was all open to the left and rear, and it was impossible for the Indians to have made their escape in that direction. Lieutenant Clark had orders to wait in that position until I gave the signal with my bugle for him to advance, which was to be about daylight. He was then to march his command up to within fifty yards of the Indian camp, and if not fired upon to await further orders. If firing was commenced by the

Indians not to let one of them escape him. The Indian camp was on both sides of the river where it emptied into the lake. Along the river for three miles from its mouth is a thick growth of underbrush, willows, and cottonwood, and at the camp the river is thirty or forty yards wide and about two or three feet deep. The cavalry arrived on the ground about thirty minutes before daylight. I took the infantry up the lake within about half a mile of the mouth of the river, then deployed and covered the ground from there to the river, my right resting on the lake and my left on the river, and the whole camp of Indians on the south side of the river within easy range of my rifles. I took this ground about fifteen minutes before daylight. Just at the break of day the Indian Josephus, I had down at the Indian camp, came out to me and told me that one of the men was in camp on the other side of the river and the other fifteen miles down on the east side of the lake. I sent Josephus back across the river and told him to stay with the Indians and send back a guide. In about ten minutes an Indian came back, and (I had an Indian interpreter with me so that I could converse with him) he said that Josephus was with the murderer. I had kept five mounted men (cavalry) with me to use in case of necessity. I had sent one to the rear to stop the wagons, the others I took with me, and we started for camp on the other side of the river with the Indian guide, who had first come out to me to cross the river. We had to go through the camp on the south side next to the infantry, but our guide, myself, and the four men being well mounted, we went through the camp on a run. We could see the Indians running in every direction and making a great deal of noise, but there was not a shot fired. At this time it had just got to be fairly light. We crossed the river, and I found that the camp on the north side was about 100 yards below and more on the lake. I ordered my bugler to sound the call for the cavalry, and sent one of the men to have Lieutenant Clark bring his force down in order. By this time the guide had got half way to camp; the Indians commenced to yell. After I crossed the river I saw the Indians who

acted as guides to Lieutenant Clark leave his lines and start for the camp, hallooing to the Indians to lay down their arms or they would all be killed ; that we had them surrounded, and they could not get out. I now saw Josephus about the center of the camp. I rode up to him and asked him which was the man we were after. Just then and before he had time to answer an Indian jumped out of the campoode (Indian hut) with a gun in his hand, when Campbell, the sub-Indian agent, who had just come in with the Indians from Lieutenant Clark's lines, leveled his revolver and told him to lay down his gun or he would shoot him. Josephus told me that he was not the one we were after. His gun was taken away from him, and the Indian that we were after pointed to me. I dismounted and tied and placed him in charge of twenty-five of the cavalry, with orders to move up to the bridge two miles above. The infantry, under Lieutenant Lansing, was ordered to the same point. I then took the remaining twenty-five cavalymen and started around the east side of the lake, with Josephus as a guide and a brother of the man we were after in custody. When I had arrived within about one mile of the camp I sent ten men around to the head of the ravine in which the Indians were camped, and halted the command in order to give them time to get into position. From where we had halted we could not be seen by the Indians in camp. After I had given the ten men sufficient time to take their position to guard the head of the ravine, I ordered a forward movement on the camp. We had not proceeded more than 200 yards before I saw an Indian running up a small ravine some half a mile ahead. I deployed the cavalry and pursued him. His brother and Josephus hallooted to him not to run or he would be shot. Before we got within shooting distance of him he stopped. When we came up with him I took his gun away from him and tied him. I then had the recall sounded, and started back for the head of the lake at 7.30 a. m., and arrived at the bridge at 10 a. m. I found about 300 warriors assembled here, but without arms, and they all appeared to be friendly except the relatives of the two

men we had taken. I found my teams here all right and moved up the river about three miles to Camp Josephus, where the grass was good, there being none at the bridge where the infantry halted. We all got into camp at 12 m. I now informed the Indians that I must have the saddles and pistols that belonged to the murdered men, and that if they did not bring them in I would go after them. They said that the things were at the foot of the lake. I sent the brothers of the prisoners for them and told them to bring them to this post. They arrived here to-day. I left Camp Josephus at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 17th; crossed over to the north side of the river, and traveled up fifteen miles to the Reservation house, on the main Walker River. I here found about 100 warriors of the same tribe as those on the lake (Pi-Utes), but all friendly. It was this part of the tribe that rendered me so much assistance as guides and interpreters. A large number of them spoke English, and kept me posted of the whereabouts of the Indians. I left the Reservation house at 6 a. m. of the 18th. Went fifteen miles up the river. Camped with the infantry at Smith's ranch. As there was no grain or hay to be had at this point, I sent the cavalry on five miles to Mason's ranch. Left Smith's ranch at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, and arrived at Fort Churchill, distance twenty miles, at 11 a. m. The cavalry left Mason's at 8 o'clock and arrived here at the same time. On arriving at this post I placed the two Indian prisoners in the guard-house, under charge of the sergeant of the guard.

Before closing this report I desire to say that Lieut. William H. Clark, Company E, cavalry, and Lieut. G. J. Lansing, of my own company, deserve great credit for the prompt manner in which they fulfilled all orders. The men, both cavalry and infantry, at the critical moment when the advance was made by the cavalry on the Indian camp were perfectly steady and behaved like veterans. If at this time there had been a shot fired on either side we would have had a desperate fight, as the Indians were ready for a fight, and had

sent us word that they would not give up the murderers, and it was only by taking them by surprise and having them completely surrounded that we succeeded in taking the criminals without great loss on both sides.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

WM. WALLACE,

Capt. Company A, First Nevada Vol. Infty., Comdg. Expedition.

Maj. Charles McDermit,

Commanding Sub-District of Nevada.
